

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NO. 2014020113

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING  
MEDIATION, PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE AND HEARING

On February 18, 2014, the parties filed a joint request to continue the dates in this matter, such that the hearing would be scheduled just over 60 days from the original date.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

☒ Granted. All dates are vacated. However, District's position that only one attorney and one District staff person are authorized to act on its behalf is not considered good cause for granting the continuance. The continuance is being granted because parent has agreed, a mediation date has been set, and the requested continuance is not unreasonably long. This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:	March 12, 2014 at 9:30 AM
Prehearing Conference:	April 25, 2014 at 10:00 AM
Due Process Hearing:	May 5-8, 2014 at 1:30 PM first day, 9:00 AM other days, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: February 19, 2014

/s/

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RICHARD T. BREEN  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings